

Outline

- Who does what
- Approach to infrastructure planning
- Example of energy infrastructure
- Tackling the issues
- Conclusions



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk



Who does what?



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- Welsh Government
 - Executive led by Labour Cabinet of 11 Ministers
 - Post March 2011 Referendum secured law making powers
- 25 Local Planning Authorities
 - Comprising: 22 Unitary Authorities
 - 3 National Park Authorities

Approach to Infrastructure planning in Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- Wales Spatial Plan 2008
- National planning policy
 - Planning Policy Wales, first issued in 2002
 - Technical Advice Notes including spatially specific advice
 - Guidance and toolkits
- Local Development Plans
 - Prepared by LPAs
- Delivery
 - Public and private

Using example of energy infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk



© Crown copyright (2013) Visit Wales

Energy Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- Chapter 12 PPW updated in 2011
- Requires LPAs to
 - facilitate all forms of renewable energy development
 - consider the contribution their area can make plan positively for renewable energy projects
 - need to balance issues such as cumulative impact against the Welsh Government's broader renewable energy aspirations

Energy Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Scales of Development

Renewable and low carbon energy scales for planning purposes

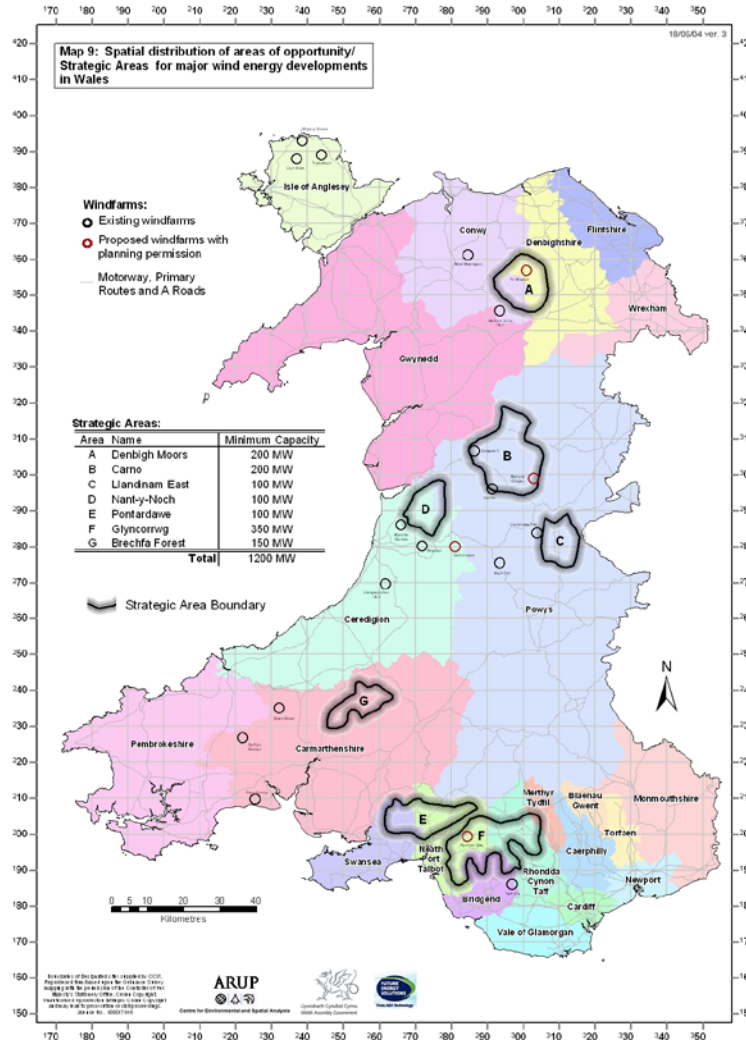
Scale of development	Threshold (electricity and heat)
Strategic	Over 25MW for onshore wind and over 50 MW for all other technologies
Local Authority-wide	Between 5MW and 25MW for onshore wind and between 5MW and 50MW for all other technologies
Sub Local Authority	Between 50kW and 5MW
Micro	Below 50kW

TAN 8: Strategic Search Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk



Technical Advice Note 8



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- Published 2005
- Factually Updated 2011
- Covers all forms of renewable energy technologies not just onshore wind
- Strategic approach to major windfarm development seeking to cluster developments and hence restrict proliferation
- Based on a GIS sieve-mapping exercise to identify least constrained upland areas, 4% of Wales
- SSA maximum capacities identified in Garrad Hassan work

Consenting Issues



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Fragmented responsibility depending on size of project

Installation Size	Current Consenting Body
>50MW	UK Government, Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change
< 50MW onshore	Local authorities & Welsh Ministers

Evaluation of Consenting Performance of Renewable Energy Schemes in Wales, January 2013



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- 73 Renewable Energy Projects (>5MWs) submitted 2005 – 2012

Of which:

	MW	%
Consented	1290	50
Under construction	60	
Operational	110	
Refused	300	10
In the system	<u>1150</u>	<u>40</u>
Total	2910	100

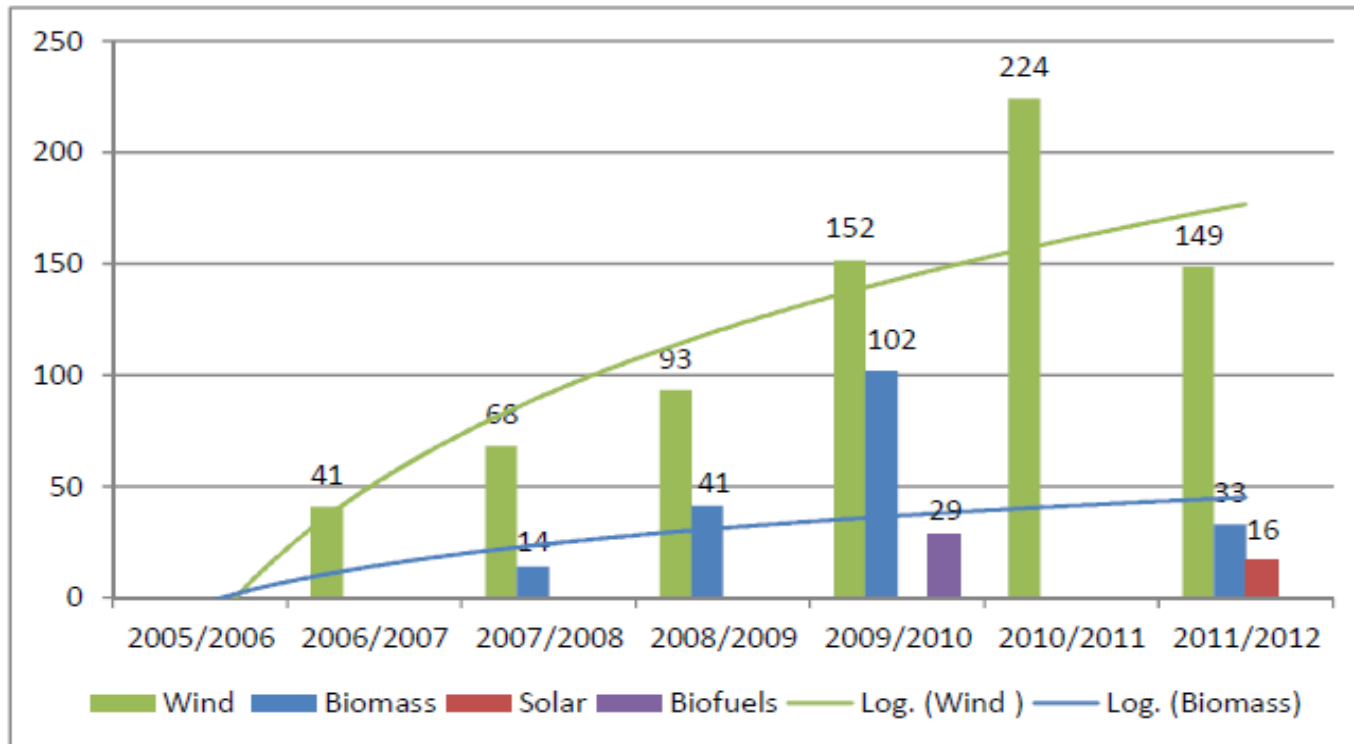
Consenting Issues



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Average Yearly Decision-Making Times by Technology (April 2005 – Feb 2012)



Consenting Issues



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- Wind Farm clustering in SSAs
- Evidence that LPAs are finding it difficult to deliver timely decisions
- Need for timely and appropriate input from Statutory Consultees
- NSIP Ancillary Development & Associated Consents - not generally part of the DCO process

Tackling the Issues: Towards a Planning Bill



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- Support for LPAs on-going – technical and financial
- Rationalised statutory consultees – Natural Resources Wales (formerly CCW, EAW and FCW)
- Evidence gathering complete
- Planning consultation package to issue in December
- Planning Reform Bill – introduction to National Assembly June 2014
- Royal Assent 2015

Conclusions



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

- Planning legislative framework has got more complex
- Expectation that LPAs should determine full range of TCPA applications may not be appropriate
- Need to balance democratic input and local accountability with the need for leadership and taking difficult decisions in the wider public interest and for the longer term
- Delivery has got harder against increased public mistrust of decision makers etc.
- Can't legislate for culture change
- Need champions making the case for new infrastructure and change

Evidence Base

- Towards a Welsh Planning Act: Ensuring the Planning System Delivers
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/towardsawelshplanningact/?lang=en>
- A New Approach to Managing Development in Wales: Towards a Welsh Planning Act
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/anewaproach/;jsessionid=38D83BD51DC97635A54A04F02F139AC6?lang=en>
- Public attitudes towards the planning system in Wales
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/publicattitudes/;jsessionid=38D83BD51DC97635A54A04F02F139AC6?lang=en>
- Delivery of Planning Services in Statutory Designated Landscapes in Wales
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/statutorylandscapes/;jsessionid=38D83BD51DC97635A54A04F02F139AC6?lang=en>
- Evaluation of Consenting Performance of Renewable Energy Schemes in Wales
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/evaluation-of-consenting-performance-of-renewable-energy-schemes/?lang=en>

